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L. Somers (J.) Baron Somers.

THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

Against the

Lord Summers.

I. HE did not Endeavour to obstruct, but Encouraged and Promoted the Treaty of Partition; and being Lord *Chancellor*, Ratified the same under the Great Seal, as an Agreement between His Majesty, the *French* King, and the States-General; though he well knew the same had been concluded between His Majesty's Commissioners, and the *French* Embassador or *French* Commissioners only; and that the purport thereof had not been at the time of the Ratification thereof communicated to the States-General, though negotiated there

II. Certain Commissions were made out without any Lawful Warrant, and the Great Seal affixed to them without Communicating the same to the rest of the Lords Justices, or to the Privy-Council, no certain Persons was in the said Commissions nominated at the time of the Sealing, but a Blank left for them to be afterwards inserted beyond Sea; notwithstanding

there

there was unlimitted Power granted to them that ſhould hereafter be Inſerted in the ſaid Blanks without any particular Directions to guide them to confer with the Commiſſioners for the States and the *French* King.

III. Affixed the Great Seal to the ſaid Commiſſions, without any Lawful Warrant for the ſame, and after he had Sealed the ſame, endeavoured to get a Warrant, ſo that it might ſeem he had a Warrant before he had ſealed the ſame.

IV. Affixed the Great Seal to the Ratification of the ſaid Treaty, not having communicated the ſame to the Reſt of the ſaid Lords Juſtices, or the Privy-Council, leaving at the Sealing a whole Blanck Sheet, and ſeveral other Blanks, to be filled up beyond Sea.

V. Another Treaty was Entred into, and Ratified under the Great Seal, whereby great Dominions were given to *France*, to the Prejudice of Trade, and Strengthening *France* againſt our Allies.

VI. All Treaties and Ratifications under the Great Seal, ought to be Enrolled in *Chancery*, which he neglected to do, and which might be a Prejudice to Merchants and Traders.

VII. Contrary to his Oath, as *Lord Keeper*, or *Chancellor*, did Paſs many Exorbitant and Unreaſonable Grants under the Great Seal of Lands, &c. belonging to the Crown, of Prodigious and Exceſſive value; and he adviſed, promoted, and procured great and unreaſonable Exhorbitant Grants of the late Forfeited Eſtates in *Ireland*, againſt the advice of the Parliament, and contrary to the King's Aſſurance to his Parliament; and procured ſeveral Acts for Confirming the ſaid Grants in the Parliament of *Ireland*, to be approved by the Council in *England*, and Remitted the ſame under the Great Seal to be Paſs'd in *Ireland*.

VIII. Beſides the Fees to the *Lord Keeper*, or *Chancllor*, the King gave him 4000 *l. per Annum*, yet he Procured ſeveral Unreaſonable Grants of Mannours belonging to the Crown——

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He procured the Mannors of *Rigate*, and *Howlich* in *Surry*, to be granted to *Joseph Jekeel* Esq; and Pass'd the same under the Great Seal, which were to the value of 1200 l. Procured a Warrant from the King to the Trustees for Sale of Fee-Farm Rents to contract with *Humphry Hedrington* for 800 l. *per Annum* of the same, at 16 Years Purchase, and the Treasury to give Warrant to convey the same accordingly. The like to *Richard Adney* for 700 *l. per Annum.* The like to *Samuel Newton* for 600 *l.* *per Annum.* Which 3 Contracts were made, and *Hedrington* became obliged to pay to the Exchequer 12800 *l.* *Adney* 11200 *l.* and *Newton* 9600 *l.* divers Fee Farm Rents by the Power of the Lord *Summers*, were in consideration of 3200 *l.* to the Exchequer, were conveyed by direction of the said *Humphry Hedrington*, *Leonard Hancock*, and *John Warner*. Other Fee-Farm and other Rents were in consideration of 96000 *l.* Remainder of the 12600 *l.* were conveyed to *Humphry Hedrington*, in all 800 *l.* *per Annum.* The like to *Adney* in consideration of 2400 *l.* divers Fee-Farm, *&c.* conveyed by appointment of *Richard Adney* to *Leonard Hancock* and *John Warner*, and other Rents, were in consideration of 8000 *l.* conveyed to *Richard Adney*, being 700 *l.* *per Annum*: The like to *Newton*, in consideration of 2400 *l.* divers Fee-Farm, *&c.* conveyed by appointment of *Newton* to *Hancock* and *Warner*, and other Rents in consideration of 7200 *l.* being in all 600 *l.* *per Annum*; these Grants only in Trust by the Lord *Summers*.

IX. In Combination with *Mariot Auditor*, and *Digby* Clark to the Trustees, to discover such Fee-Farm Rents were undisposed of, to the Intent to beg the same of His Majesty, agreed to give them one fourth part, and accordingly procured a Grant of Fee-Farm Rents, to the full value of 500 *l. per Annum* in trust for them.

X. Notwithstanding the Contracts, no Mony paid by the Truees for conveying the said Fee-Farm Rents, though amounting to 33600 *l.*

XI. Certain Quit-Rents, Copy-hold Rents, standing as Parcel of several Mannors Rents, conveyed all to Acts of Parliament for Payment of Pensions, Stipends, Alms, *&c.*

Allowance

Allowance for Maintenance of Schools, Repairing of Churches, Chappels, Bridges, High-ways, Alms-Houſes, *&c.* And Rents united by Acts to *Windſor*, were by his direſtions conveyed as aforeſaid, as entire, Enter Fee-Farm Rents to Vexation and Oppreſſion of many, and lying Unreaſonable Charges on all Parts of the Revenue.

XII. That by his direction, *Hedrington*, *Adney*, and *Newton*, ſurrendred ſeveral of the ſaid Rents to them granted of the value of 347 *l.* 5 *s.* 11 *d.* 1 *q.* Suggeſting they were conveyed before ſet apart for paying of Penſions, or bad, or illevable, or wrong conveyed. Procured another Grant of the Yearly value of 391 *l.* 3 *d.* 1 *q.* to be conveyed to *Adney* in Truſt for the Lord *Summers*, as if the ſaid Yearly Rents of 347 *l.* 11 *s.* 5 *d.* 1 *q.* ſo ſurrendred had been really Purchaſed.

XIII. He with Lord *Orford*, procured a Commiſſion for Captain *Kidd*, and procured a Grant, and Paſs'd under the Seal in 97. That all Ships, *&c.* Goods, Treaſures, *&c.* which ſince the 30th of *April*, 96. were taken by ſeveral Pirates, in the ſaid Letters Pattents complained of for committing great Robberies, which ſhould be ſeaſed by *Kidd* to the Lord *Bellamont*, *Samuel Newton*, &c. without any Account to be made for the ſame; and the ſaid *Newton* was in Truſt for the Lord *Summers*.

XIV. As High *Chancellor*, by many extraordinary ways, he deferred Cauſes brought before him, and made Arbitrary and Illegal Orders, in ſubverſion of the Laws and of his own Authority, Reverſed Judgments of the Exchequer, without calling the Barons to hear the Cauſes of their Judgments, as the Statutes expreſly directs; and declared in open Places of Judicature, that a Subject might have Rights and Intereſt without any Remedy for Recovery of the ſame but by Petition of the King only.

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FINIS.